AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly for delivering an endoprosthesis within a body lumen, comprising:

a catheter;

a self-expandable endoprosthesis; and

a bioabsorbable material tightly fitted over the endoprosthesis wherein the bioabsorbable material is affixed to the endoprosthesis, the bioabsorbable material configured to prevent expansion of the endoprosthesis;

wherein the bioabsorbable material is configured to fail after a predetermined amount of time in the body, and the material includes areas of varying strength such that the material fails in a controlled manner, the areas of varying strength being selected from the group consisting of scoring and thinner diameter portions.

Claims 2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a material that is tightly coiled around at least a portion of the endoprosthesis and is heat-bonded thereto.

6. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the endoprosthesis has an open-lattice configuration with open areas, and the bioabsorbable material is threaded through one or more of the open areas of the endoprosthesis.

7. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the material has varying thickness, with areas with greatest thickness at distal and proximal ends.

8. (Withdrawn) The catheter assembly of claim l, wherein the biocompatible material comprises a coating on the endoprosthesis.

9. (Withdrawn) The catheter assembly of claim 8, wherein the endoprosthesis has an outer surface, and the biocompatible coating is positioned on the outer surface of the endoprosthesis.

10. (Withdrawn) The catheter assembly of claim 8, wherein the endoprosthesis has an inner surface, and the biocompatible coating is positioned on the inner surface of the endoprosthesis.

11. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein endoprosthesis has open areas, and the bioabsorbable material is positioned within one or more of said open areas of the endoprosthesis.

Claims 12-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 5, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises areas of varying strength such that the bioabsorbable material fails in a controlled manner.

21. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 20, wherein the areas of varying strength are selected from the group consisting of scoring, perforations and thinner diameter portions.

22. (Withdrawn) The catheter assembly of claim 8, wherein the biocompatible coating has adhesive or non-slip properties.

23. (Withdrawn) The catheter assembly of claim 10, wherein the biocompatible coating forms a smooth inner surface on the endoprosthesis.

24. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding stent and the bioabsorbable material provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

25. (Previously Presented) An endoprosthesis for deployment in a body lumen, comprising:

a self-expanding stent; and

a bioabsorbable material positioned on the stent such that it prevents self-expansion of the stent;

wherein the bioabsorbable material is wrapped around and bonded to the stent such that it does not overlie the distal end and the proximal end of the stent and wherein the bond fails during self-expansion of the stent.

26. (Previously Presented) The endoprosthesis of claim 25, wherein the stent has one or more open areas and the bioabsorbable material is threaded through one or more of the open areas.

27. (Previously Presented) The endoprosthesis of claim 25, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises areas of varying strength such that the bioabsorbable material fails in a controlled manner.

28. (Previously Presented) The endoprosthesis of claim 27, wherein the areas of varying strength are selected from the group consisting of scoring, perforations and thinner diameter portions.

29. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 25, wherein the stent has an open-lattice configuration.

30. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 25, wherein the stent is self-expanding and a bioabsorbable filament provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

31. (Withdrawn) A catheter assembly for delivering an endoprosthesis within a body lumen, comprising:

a catheter;

an expandable member;

an endoprosthesis disposed on the expandable member, the endoprosthesis having a distal end and a proximal end; and

a biocompatible material positioned on and heat bonded to the endoprosthesis, the biocompatible material configured to prevent expansion of the endoprosthesis;

wherein the biocompatible material comprises a sheath that surrounds a portion of the endoprosthesis, the sheath having a length less than the length of the endoprosthesis, and the sheath being positioned on the endoprosthesis so that the sheath does not overlie either the distal end or the proximal end of the endoprosthesis.

32. (Withdrawn) The catheter assembly of claim 31, wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding stent and the biocompatible sheath provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

33. (Withdrawn) A catheter assembly for delivering an endoprosthesis within a body lumen, comprising:

a catheter;

an expandable member;

an endoprosthesis disposed on the expandable member, the endoprosthesis having a distal end and a proximal end; and

a biocompatible material positioned on and heat bonded to the endoprosthesis, the biocompatible material configured to prevent expansion of the endoprosthesis;

wherein the biocompatible material comprises a sheath that surrounds a portion of the endoprosthesis, the sheath having a length less than the length of the

endoprosthesis, and the sheath being positioned on the endoprosthesis so that the sheath overlies either the distal end or the proximal end of the endoprosthesis.

34. (Withdrawn) The catheter assembly of claim 33, wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding stent and the biocompatible sheath provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

35. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a filament.

36. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 25, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a filament.

37. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly for delivering an endoprosthesis within a body lumen, comprising:

a catheter;

a self-expanding endoprosthesis; and

a bioabsorbable material tightly coiled over the endoprosthesis, wherein the biocompatible material is wrapped about the endoprosthesis, and the biocompatible material is configured to prevent expansion of the endoprosthesis;

wherein the coiled biocompatible material is configured to fail after a time in the body, the material comprising areas of varying strength along the material such that the material fails in a controlled manner, the areas of varying strength being selected from the group consisting of scoring, ~~perforations~~ and thinner diameter portions; and

wherein the biocompatible material provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

38. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly of claim 37, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a filament.

39. (Currently Amended) An endoprosthesis for deployment in a body lumen, comprising:

a self-expanding stent; and

a bioabsorbable material positioned on the stent such that it prevents expansion of the stent;

wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a material that extends around the stent such that it does not overlie the distal end and the proximal end of the stent and wherein bioabsorbable material fails during expansion of the stent;

wherein the stent has one or more open areas and the material is threaded through one or more of the open areas;

wherein the material comprises areas of varying strength along the material such that the material fails in a controlled manner, the areas of varying strength being selected from the group consisting of scoring, ~~perforations~~ and thinner diameter portions; and

wherein the bioabsorbable material provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent self-expansion of the stent.